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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. of: HANNIG, Hans-Jurge &  
EISERMANN, Ralf

U.S. Appln. No.: to be assigned  
PCT Appln. No.: PCT/IE99/03259

Group Art Unit: to be assigned.

PCT Appln. Filed: 09 October 1999

Examiner: to be assigned.

For: PANEL AND PANEL FASTENING SYSTEM

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
And Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-referenced application, please  
amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 as shown below. A  
marked up version of the amended claims is attached to this Amendment.

3. (Amended) A fastening system according to claim 1 characterised in that the hook  
projection (4f, 5f, 28, 29) of the leg (4e, 5e, 26, 27) at the underside bears in the assembled  
condition of a panel (3, 4, 5, 6, 22, 23, 40, 41) against the leg (4e, 53, 26, 27) at the top side  
of a second panel (3, 4, 5, 6, 22, 23, 40, 41) and that provided between the hook projection  
(4f, 5f, 28, 29) of the leg (4e, 5e, 26, 27) at the top side of the first panel (3, 4, 5, 6, 22, 23,  
40, 41) and the leg (4e, 5e, 26, 27) at the underside of the second panel (3, 4, 5, 6, 22, 23, 40,  
41) is clearance (L1) or vice-versa.